

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 30, 1995, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 273. An act to amend section 61h-6, of title 2, United States Code.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-26. A resolution adopted by the House of the Legislature of the State of Alabama; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

"HR 27

"Whereas, with each passing year, this nation becomes more deeply in debt as its expenditures grossly and repeatedly exceed available revenues; and

"Whereas, as the federal debt grows, the stability of our national and world economy weakens, and the burden placed on future generations of Americans become more onerous; and

"Whereas, conjunctively with a required balancing of the federal budget is a necessary prohibition against the imposition of unfunded federal mandates and other cost reallocation to the several states; and

"Whereas, believing that fiscal uncertainties at the federal level is the greatest threat that our nation faces, and cognizant that statutory budget balancing remedies have failed, we firmly believe that constitutional restraint is vital to bring the fiscal discipline needed to restore financial responsibility;" Now therefore be it

"Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Alabama, That the Legislature urges the United States Congress to adopt an amendment to the United States Constitution which both requires the balancing of the federal budget and prohibits transferring the costs and burdens of federal responsibilities and inclinations to the states by unfunded mandates or similar means.

"Be it Further Resolved, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, and to every member of the State's Congressional Delegation."

POM-27. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

"SENATE RESOLUTION

"Whereas, for far too many years, Congress has recklessly and repeatedly enacted federal budgets in which government expenditures have grossly exceeded available revenues, resulting in unparalleled federal budgetary deficits that unjustly mortgage the future of our nation's children; and

"Whereas, Congress has taken far too little action on its own initiative to implement responsible budgetary controls through the reduction or elimination of the need for federal spending for certain governmental programs or the imposition of sufficient tax levies that would generate adequate revenue to fund necessary federal government programs; and

"Whereas, Congressional attempts to control the federal budget deficit over the last decade have resulted in shifting the plan-

ning, operational, and funding responsibilities for many federally-mandated programs to the states and their local governments, while at the same time reducing federal financial support for those programs; and

"Whereas, those short-sighted budget deficit control efforts have forced some states and local governments to reduce budget expenditures for their own necessary programs and to raise taxes to fund the additional financial burden imposed by Congress; and

"Whereas, approximately eighty percent of the nation's state legislatures are currently required to enact a balanced state budget, either by their state constitutions, state statutes, or legislative rules, proving that this is a task that can be accomplished by fiscally responsible elected officials; and

"Whereas, fiscal restraint imposed by an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America is necessary to curtail federal spending to conform to available federal revenues; and

"Whereas, Article V of the Constitution of the United States of America provides that amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Congress for submission to the states for their ratification when two-thirds of both houses deem it necessary;

"Now, therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

"Section 1. That the Congress of the United States is hereby requested and petitioned to adopt an amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America, for submission to the states for their ratification, requiring that each federal budget enacted by the Congress and signed by the President of the United States be in balance.

"Section 2. That, notwithstanding the submission of a balanced budget amendment to the states, each Congress convened prior to the amendment's ratification should make every reasonable effort on its own initiative to enact a balanced federal budget prior to being subject to the amendment's mandate that it do so.

"Section 3. That the Congress, in striving to enact a balanced federal budget and to reduce the federal budget deficit, must begin by addressing spending needs and revenue generation possibilities at the federal level and by funding only what the federal government itself can afford instead of unjustly shifting the financial responsibility for continuing federally-mandated programs and services onto the overburdened back of state and local governments.

"Section 4. That the Clerk of the Senate is directed to send copies of this resolution to the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the Secretary of the United States Senate, and the members of Congress elected from the Commonwealth of Kentucky."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. PELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 293. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the payment to States of per diem for veterans receiving adult day health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mr. COHEN:

S. 294. A bill to increase the availability and affordability of health care coverage for

individuals and their families, to reduce paperwork and simplify the administration of health care claims, to increase access to care in rural and underserved areas, to improve quality and protect consumers from health care fraud and abuse, to promote preventive care, to make long-term care more affordable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. KASSEBAUM (for herself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. GREGG, and Mr. GORTON):

S. 295. A bill to permit labor management cooperative efforts that improve America's economic competitiveness to continue to thrive, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. BRADLEY, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. DODD, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. LEAHY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. MOYNIHAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PACKWOOD, Mr. PELL, Mr. ROBB, Mr. SIMON, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 296. A bill to amend section 1977A of the Revised Statutes to equalize the remedies available to all victims of intentional employment discrimination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 297. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the exclusion from gross income for veterans' benefits; to the Committee on Finance.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. DASCHLE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. PELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. JEFFORDS, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 293. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the payment to States of per diem for veterans receiving adult day health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

STATE VETERANS HOME ACT

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I rise to introduce the State Veterans Home Act of 1995. The bill extends discretionary authority to the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide a per diem payment for adult day health care for veterans. The bill also authorizes the use of funds from the Extended Care Facilities Grants Program, section 8131, to construct or renovate existing facilities to provide adult day care for veterans.

The legislation I am introducing today is similar to S. 852 introduced at the beginning of the 103d Congress. In the last Congress, S. 852 was reported to the Senate as section 205 of S. 1030—Veterans Health Programs Improvement Act of 1993—and passed by the Senate on May 25, 1994. Regrettably due to the legislative log-jam at the end of the 103d Congress, it was not incorporated into the veterans health benefits measure, H.R. 3313, that passed the House in the closing days of the 103d Congress.